

# THE LOINS GIRT ABOUT WITH TRUTH

## **Ephesians 6:10-18 (KJV)**

- <sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.  
<sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.  
<sup>12</sup> For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.  
<sup>13</sup> Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.  
<sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;  
<sup>15</sup> And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;  
<sup>16</sup> Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.  
<sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:  
<sup>18</sup> Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

And I will continue this evening with our study on SPIRITUAL WARFARE, and more specifically, THE LOINS GIRT WITH TRUTH.

Spiritual warfare is a real thing. We are at war with our adversary and we must view this the way he does. We don't have time anymore for laid back, comfort based Christianity.

Remember a few things with this warfare:

- **WE ARE AT WAR** - it isn't a war of natural means or happening in this realm to take things or people from you, this war is about your faith and is going on for the purpose of you to give up on God
- **WE HAVE AN ENEMY** - the bible calls him the devil and the enemy of our soul. He hates us and desires to steal, kill, and destroy your faith with whatever means he can.
- **HE HAS A STRUCTURE** - found in this passage, it is a structure comprised of fallen angels and demon spirits and they do whatever they can to bring discouragement and stand in the way of the plan and will of God.
- **WE ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE** - we are to engage our enemy but the fight is the part that must be done correctly. We show up, God will show off.

**So how is the particular piece mentioned in scripture applicable to our warring a good warfare?**

Well, the first two parts we looked at dealt with mind and then heart, or thoughts and desires, we now get to a part of the armor that gets under emphasized due to a lack of study and due to its lack of glamor compared to the other parts of the armor.

## THE LOINS GIRT ABOUT WITH TRUTH

This is an interesting piece in the armor. And there are two ways that those Paul was writing to would understand the armor.

- **THE ROMAN SOLDIER** - this part of the armor worn by a Roman would be a belt. It would hold great responsibility in the makeup of the Roman garb. Roman legions didn't wear hard pieces of armor as you would consider a knight, the medieval times were hundreds of years from this time anyways. The Roman utilized a breastplate, helmet, shield, weapon, boots, and then a piece in the midsection that almost looked like a kilt. It was light enough to allow free movement yet just strong enough to deflect a blow to that particular area. **This girdle and belt held the other pieces in their place.** And the shield and weapon and breastplate actually connected to them in battle to keep everything in its proper operation.
- **THE EASTERN WARRIOR** - whether it was Jews or the Gentiles, Paul's audience would know this form of warrior as it was prominent as Rome was just getting its foothold in the realm in which Paul was ministering. The eastern warrior wore a simple tunic, made of one piece of fabric that would reach from shoulder to foot. In the center, there would be a belt or really a piece of fabric at the waist area, that had a special use. When labor or battle came, the long tunic would become a hindrance so the men would grab the long portions and pull them up and tuck them into the belt to keep them out of the way of their operations. **You could say that it was a removal of hindrance and restriction.** And where there was no protection for this warrior or great armor to defend with, they would depend on speed and agility to maneuver the battlefield.

**And where we can see the concept of what the belt would do for the warrior, it seems that Paul would focus more on what those pieces were doing or protecting rather than their individual operations.**

**For example:**

- The helmet may have protected the head from a blow, but in spiritual terms, it protected the mind
- The breastplate may have kept vital organs protected, but in spiritual terms, it guards the heart

And tonight's piece is no different. **The focus should be on what is being protected and not the simple operation of the armor itself.** So, what is this belt protecting?

You find this in the wording of the passage and it is the word "loins".

**In the Greek, this word is defined as "*the hip*" or get this, "*the procreative power*".**

Now this makes it interesting.

**We are to put on the armor that protects the procreative power of the Christian.**

Now I had to really think about this one and it all makes sense when you get down to what is being taught here.

**The procreation of the Christian is not referencing our children or family but the growth of the church through your discipleship.**

So, let me tie it together before I expound on it: **To fight a good warfare, we are not only to stand our ground and protect our own faculties, but part of our warfare is the reproduction and preparation of new warriors.**

There is a phrase used in the bible, in fact, it is the marching orders of the Lord to the church, which we call the Great Commission:

**Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV)**

<sup>19</sup> Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

<sup>20</sup> Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

**We are to preach and teach or save and sanctify. Or make DISCIPLES.**

And this is a failure for most of the church for many reasons but it is still the demand of Christ and it is included as part of the Armor of God.

**It is my observation that the church knows how to get people to the cross to be saved but there are few that know how to carry their cross, or take it up daily, and then teach others how to do it as well.**

**But what purpose does discipling have in spiritual warfare?**

- To teach new converts strengthens the body of Christ. For a three-fold cord is not easily broken. There is power in numbers.
- To guarantee a future of the message of Christ. If it isn't passed on then men are left to themselves to figure out eternity and we can't let that happen
- Living water must continually flow or it's not living. So, to take in and drink but never pour into someone else is a misuse of the water given. So, we find a supernatural power in helping someone fight their battles, even though we have our own.

**So, one of the most powerful things we can do in this war is reproduce more spiritual warriors that can fight their battles and reproduce as well.**

**Is this really a necessary component of spiritual warfare?**

Teaching is always a vital part of the bible. And when I say teaching, it isn't as a teacher in Sunday School, but someone that walks out their faith with the intention of impacting others.

We do this without even knowing that we do.

### **2 Corinthians 3:2 (KJV)**

<sup>2</sup> Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

This is what is meant here by Paul as he is encouraging the Corinthians to consider that they are watched by others around them. This should make us think about what our lives say to others just by them seeing us and hearing us.

And this is unintentional means or procreation, but what about purposed means. **What does the bible say about intentional means of procreating?**

### **Leviticus 10:11 (KJV)**

<sup>11</sup> And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.

Here we see the requirement for teaching of statutes to believers. It goes a little further than that:

### **Deuteronomy 4:9 (KJV)**

<sup>9</sup> Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

Now we are told to pass on to future generations the exploits of God and the experience of the believer so that they too will believe.

### **Deuteronomy 6:7 (KJV)**

<sup>7</sup> And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

This is discipleship. In everything you do, teach the ways of God.

When Samuel came along and Israel had gone years with no true man of God, he said this:

### **1 Samuel 12:23-24 (KJV)**

<sup>23</sup> Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:

<sup>24</sup> Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great *things* he hath done for you.

### **Discipleship again...**

- I will pray for you
- I will teach you the good way
- I will teach you the right way

It is a common theme throughout scripture.

Even the wisdom of God declares it:

**Proverbs 9:9 (KJV)**

<sup>9</sup> Give *instruction* to a wise *man*, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just *man*, and he will increase in learning.

Let's move it to the N.T. Jesus said this:

**Matthew 5:19 (KJV)**

<sup>19</sup> Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

And He is talking to all at the Sermon on the Mount, not just preachers. The Apostle Paul adds this:

**Titus 2:1-8 (KJV)**

<sup>1</sup> But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

<sup>2</sup> That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.

<sup>3</sup> The aged women likewise, that *they be* in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

<sup>4</sup> That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

<sup>5</sup> *To be* discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

<sup>6</sup> Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.

<sup>7</sup> In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine *shewing* uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

<sup>8</sup> Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

So, this is something that we must participate in. It is the strength of the Kingdom. **All power has been given to Christ, but it is manifest through believers standing together.**

**So how is this discipleship accomplished?**

- We must continue in our own maturation
- Get involved in someone else's life
- Teach TRUTH. That is the ingredient of this piece of armor.

**So, we war a good warfare by producing the next generation and helping them learn the power of God in their own lives. This grows their faith, uses what is in us, and strengthens the ranks of the Lord as we stand together.**

**But how does it help me in my battle?**

- To stand with someone else is to not stand alone.
- To concern yourself with someone else's affairs is what Christ did for you.
- To help the weak become strong, makes you even stronger, even when you feel weak.
- It guarantees the future of souls and how they are impacted.

**So, disciple with truth and stand in the power of God!**